

IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

SECOND VOLUME OF FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY'S JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA—NOTES.

THE second volume of Funk & Wagnall's Jewish Encyclopedia has been issued. It was produced under the direction of the same staff of editors and writers that made the first volume, and in every respect equals it in excellence and thoroughness.

It is only within the last half-century that any serious attempts have been made to render accessible the original sources of Jewish history scattered throughout the libraries of Europe.

Strange as it may seem, there is no country yet that possesses an adequate history of its Jews. Through the last years considerable activity has been shown in collecting material for such histories, there exists no comprehensive historical account of the Jews of Germany, Austria, France, Holland, England, Poland, and the United States, even of such political divisions as Bohemia, Moravia and Galicia.

Two countries are focusing the attention of the world, as far as the Hebrews are concerned: Russia and America. The old Jewish misery and slavery, and America, the land of activity and freedom: the land of the past and the land of the future, the latter having in its midst the Jews, most of them hailing from the Empire of the Czars.

As to Russia, even the modern historian par excellence of the Jews, H. Graetz, in his bulky history, devotes but a small space to the history and mental evolution of the 5,000,000 of Hebrews condemned to live huddled together in the so-called "Palestine."

The biographical department of this work numbers more than 500 topics. In these pages Ministers of Finance of the old Kings of Castile and Aragon elbow Russian sculptors and painters of the 19th century; after the life-story of some illustrious president of a Babylonian academy of the fourth or fifth century you find the biography of an eminent American physician still living.

The Jewish Encyclopedia, although it is almost exclusively edited and written by Jewish scholars, has studiously sought to avoid giving a so-called "Pantheon" of Jewish celebrities by exaggerating the merits of the biographical characters. The facts are related and the reader is allowed to draw his own conclusions.

One Publisher's Modesty. A publisher of cheap books, who is now making his third or fourth venture in this business, is sending out a circular to writers with the following contents: "We are searching for talent, and mention that it would take pages to print a list of the many writers he has brought to the notice of the publisher."

It Turned Out 1200 Volumes Bearing the Frenchman's Name. Last month there was celebrated in France the centenary of Alexandre Dumas—a fact worthy of note, because of the long-continued popularity of this great novelist.

What a Novelist Must Know. Not long since Sir Gilbert Parker gave utterance to the following ideas as to the art of fiction: "A man must know the truth to write a fiction. Fiction can be learned, but cannot be taught."

Queer Coincidences. The Los Angeles Express contained an interesting editorial entitled "Queer Literary Coincidences," in which mention was called to the fact that three stories published within the last year have had the same prominent motif.

Another Indiana Fake. It used to be a common saying among Chicago newspaper men that more "fakes" came from Indiana than from any other state, and yet the Chicago newspapers always seem willing to father any wild story that came from that wonderful country.

The Pronunciation of "Again." Following even an overwhelming precedent is not without its disadvantages. Because an advertisement of the Standard Dictionary referred to the pronunciation of Ben Jonson's "again" with "vain" as a poor one, and backed the judgment by the authority of the dictionary's advisory committee.

A "New" Story of Greeley. James C. Fernald, the lexicographer, whose "Concise Standard Dictionary" has just been published by Funk & Wagnall's

Public Schools of France. Wonderful Growth Since the Fall of the Empire. WHY is the religious rioting favored by the Roman Catholic church? The forcible suppression of the unauthorized schools which were taught by many religious orders in France may be compared to the contests between an unhappy father and mother, of which we so often read in the daily papers, quarreling as to who shall have the bringing up of the children.

Dr. Briggs' New Book. The Scribners announce a new book of great importance by Dr. Charles Augustus Briggs, of Union Seminary. It is entitled "The Incarnation of the Lord," and consists of a series of discourses which give the entire New Testament teaching upon the great subject of the title.

"Captain Macklin." Richard Harding Davis's new novel, "Captain Macklin," will be ready for publication about the middle of September. It is distinctly one of the important works of the year, and it has a special element of vividness and personal quality in the fact that it deals with a kind of life with which Mr. Davis has become most familiar in his own country.

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Company, is the author of a little pamphlet called "Better Say," which contains many interesting examples of the correct use of the English language. One of the best is the following: "News. 'The latest news are good.' Better say: 'The latest news is good.'"

A "Coffee" Book. A novelty in Fall books from the Baker & Taylor company, which promises to be very attractive, is a compilation of coffee history, coffee anecdotes and coffee verse, including recipes for the making of coffee from the leading chefs of the country.

New Publications. "King of the Queensway Realm," by W. W. Naughton, is a manual of boxing by a man who, through experience as a sporting writer, has earned the right to be called a critic on the sport.

"The Man in the Street Stories" is a collection of anecdotes from the columns of the New York Times. The book is an introduction by Chauncey M. Depew, who says that these stories are "my refresher every Sunday, after the worry and the work of the week."

"Handbook of Best Readings," by S. H. Clark, is a compilation of prose and verse selected by the compiler for reading aloud. The choice of subjects is catholic, and includes selections from the classics as well as many fine modern poems.

William F. Howe, the noted criminal lawyer of New York City, who died a few days ago, was addicted to loud clothes, huge diamonds and watch chains so heavy that they tore his pockets. Once, when defending a client who was accused of a crime, he was so heavily burdened that he was unable to walk.

EMILE BAGE. Portland, Sept. 10. COMPETITION IN STEEL. Sehwab Concern Too Strong if Monopoly and Too Weak if Not. Minneapolis Tribune.

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